



Idaho Soil Conservation Commission Carbon Sequestration Progress Report 2006 – 2007

Idaho Code 22-5103, enacted on July 1, 2002, instructed the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) to prepare a report exploring the potential for carbon sequestration on agricultural and private, non-industrial forestlands.

IC § 22-5103 also called for the appointment of a 16-member (later increased to 19 members) Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee to be chaired by ISCC.

Carbon Sequestration on Idaho Agricultural and Forest Lands document – February 2003

A. Advisory Committee recommendation from report:

1. Maintain the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee to monitor ongoing developments, facilitate economic analysis, facilitate research activities, and provide information to landowners
2. Initiate a carbon market pilot project
3. Improve landowners' understanding of carbon sequestration and climate change
4. Enhance carbon sequestration research relevant to Idaho
5. Complete carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas baseline analysis to prepare for future carbon sequestration markets
6. Further study the potential economic benefits to Idaho landowners, and the State, through carbon markets
7. Explore requiring carbon participants to be registered with the State
8. Explore avenues to increase carbon sequestration within the State
9. Explore the potential for improving the production and use of biofuels in the State, and their economic benefit

B. Statewide carbon inventory evaluation (completed by INL) of models and values used for agriculture is currently being reviewed.

C. Memorandum of Understanding

1. Big Sky Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership and the Idaho Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee signed an MOU on January 10, 2005

D. Contract signed for consulting

1. Signed contract with Northwest Management, Inc. to develop a draft Carbon Exchange Protocol for Idaho, September 13, 2006
2. Idaho Carbon Credit Exchange Framework Draft completed on February 2, 2007
3. Second draft completed and distributed for review on May 31, 2007

E. Current working relationships

1. University of Idaho and Washington State University to acquire soil carbon data throughout Idaho
2. Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) to obtain a cropping region designation for Idaho in order to trade carbon credits on the CCX
3. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to modify Comet Model for use in Idaho.
4. Washington State University to evaluate use of the C-Farm Model for on-farm carbon verification

F. Potential Pilot Projects – two upland projects have been identified for agricultural carbon trading. ISCC will initiate efforts to develop a pilot Rangeland Trading Project, and will work directly with the following Conservation Partners:

1. The Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association (PNDSA)
2. National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC)
3. High Country and Three Rivers RC&D
4. Local Soil Conservation Districts